

solidifying said thermoplastic protective cover to retain said syntactic foam insulator in a desired shape about the length of steel pipe.

2.(Canceled)

3.(Canceled)

4.(Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of solidifying comprises the step of bringing said thermoplastic protective cover in contact with water to cool said thermoplastic protective cover.

5.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of solidifying comprises the step of passing the coated length of steel pipe through a liquid bath to cool said thermoplastic protective cover.

6.(Canceled)

7.(Canceled)

8.(Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of rapidly solidifying comprises the step of air cooling said thermoplastic protective coating.

9.(Currently Amended) A method of forming an insulating product for use as a component in sub-sea pipeline, said method comprising the steps of:

co-extruding an inner syntactic foam insulator and an outer thermoplastic protective cover; and

solidifying said thermoplastic protective cover.

10.(Previously Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of solidifying comprises the step of cooling said thermoplastic protective cover with a liquid coolant.

11.(Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said outer protective cover is a thermosetting material and said step of rapidly solidifying comprises the step of applying heat to said thermosetting material.

12.(Previously Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of solidifying comprises the step of air cooling said thermoplastic protective cover.

13-17.(Canceled)

18.(Canceled)

19.(Previously Added) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

following said step of solidifying, re-heating said insulating product to provide a re-heated insulating product.

20.(Previously Added)      The method of claim 19, further comprising placing said re-heated insulating product into a mold for reshaping.